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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

KOICHIRO TANAKA, ET AL.

Application No.: 09/009,932

Filed: January 21, 1998

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD
FOR CONTROLLING A
CAMERA BASED ON A
DISPLAYED IMAGE

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Examiner: N. Vu

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Group Art Unit: 2612

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December 16, 2003

Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated September 16, 2003, Applicants' attorney requested and conducted a personal interview on December 12, 2003, with the Examiner in the subject application. Applicants respectfully request that the following remarks be entered in the above-identified application.

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants' attorney gratefully acknowledges the courtesies extended to him by the Examiner in granting a personal interview on December 12, 2003.

In the interview, Applicants' attorney discussed in detail the various elements of the claimed invention, and distinguished the claimed features over the features disclosed in each of the cited prior art references. In summary:

The Morino '401 patent discloses a system in which a display screen is divided into a plurality of zones (e.g., a grid of nine zones), where (1) placement of a cursor within a particular zone, by user input via a mouse, selectively controls pan, tilt and/or zoom functions of the camera for so long as a mouse button is depressed, (2) in the case where the cursor is placed in a pan or tilt zone (e.g., zones A to D and F to I), dragging the cursor within the particular zone, with the mouse button depressed, controls a speed of movement of pan or tilt in the direction designated by that zone, and (3) in the case of zoom (i.e., the center zone, zone E) depressing the first mouse button zooms IN, while depressing the second mouse button zooms OUT (see, Figures 6 and 7 and Column 5, line 31 to Column 6, line 39).

The Cortjens '183 patent, and particularly, Figures 5A and 5B and the corresponding text at Column 14, line 55 to Column 16, line 56, discloses the "point and click" technique, in which the distance from the center of the display screen to a point designated by the cursor is detected, and a pan/tilt function is performed in a direction of the detected point relative to the center of the display screen, at a panning velocity determined on the basis of the detected distance therebetween. The Cortjens '183 patent in Figure 6A and the corresponding text at Column 16, line 57 to Column 18, line 47, discloses a "draw and release" technique of scripting with a mouse/cursor a diagonal line from a detected start point (PSP) to a detected end point (PEP), from which the computer generates on the display screen a rectangular box having the PSP point and the PEP point at opposing corners of the rectangle, thereby defining a portion of the display screen to which the angle or view of the camera is panned and zoomed IN, to fill the screen.

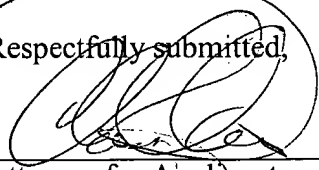
Applicants' attorney also noted that the Cortjens '183 patent does not disclose a control function using a crisscross figure pattern to zoom OUT, as suggested in the Official Action.

The Kawai JP '587 reference, discloses substantially the same "point and click" and "draw and release" techniques as the Cortjens '183 patent. The Kawai JP '587 reference further discloses the use of a mouse button 8b for the zoom OUT function.

It was agreed that none of the cited references discloses or suggests the claimed features of the present invention, for example the feature of detecting a figure scripted on a display screen on which an image is being displayed by a display device, and collating a pattern of the figure detected by the detection device with figure patterns previously stored in a storage device, and selecting a command to control a predetermined function of a camera in accordance with a figure pattern which corresponds to the detected figure, as disclosed and claimed in the present application.

It further was agreed that the Examiner would withdraw the outstanding final rejection, conduct a further search regarding the claimed elements, and issue a further action on the merits of the claimed invention.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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